<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A recording medium<u> for removably</u>
<u>cooperating with any one of a plurality of playback devices, said</u>
<u>recording medium</u> comprising:

      a memory<u> portion</u> ~~that is configured to store~~<u>for storing</u>
5   content material~~,~~<u>;</u>

      a usage indicator ~~that is configured to record~~<u>for</u>
<u>recording</u> a measure of usage associated with the content material
~~of this recording medium~~<u>stored in said memory portion</u>~~,~~<u>;</u> and

      a baseline register ~~that is configured to store~~<u>for storing</u>
10 at least one baseline-usage parameter ~~that facilitates~~<u>for</u>
<u>facilitating</u> a determination of a validity period associate<u>d</u> with
the content material based on the usage indicator.

2. (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ <u>as claimed in</u>
claim 1, wherein<u>:</u>

      the usage indicator includes a counter ~~that is configured~~
~~to be~~<u>, said counter being</u> incremented by a playback device when the
5   playback device accesses the content material.

3. (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~<u>as claimed in</u>
claim 2, wherein<u>:</u>

the at least one baseline-usage parameter includes

————————a copy of the measure of usage of the recording medium

5   when the content material is stored in the memory_portion.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ as claimed in

claim ~~5~~3, wherein:

the at least one baseline-usage parameter also includes

————————a usage limit ~~that facilitates~~for facilitating the

5   determination of the validity period.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ as claimed in

claim 2, wherein:

the at least one baseline-usage parameter is stored in the

baseline register in a secure form ~~that facilitates~~for facilitating

5   a determination of an authenticity of the at least one baseline-

usage parameter.

6.   (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ as claimed in

claim 5, wherein:

the at least one baseline-usage parameter is associated

with the content material in a secure form ~~that facilitates~~for

5   facilitating a determination of an authorization of the content

material.

7. (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the content material contains a watermark, and

————the at least one baseline-usage parameter further includes

5 ————a ticket ~~that is~~ based on a hash value of the watermark.

8. (Currently Amended)   The recording medium ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the at least one baseline-usage parameter includes a security encoding ~~that is~~ based on a private key of a public-

5 private key pair ~~that is~~ associated with a providing source of the content material, ~~and~~

————the security encoding ~~includes~~ including at least one of:

a digital signature bound to the at least one baseline-usage parameter, and

10 an encryption of the at least one baseline-usage parameter.

9-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended)   A method of rendering content material ~~that is~~ stored on a recording medium, the method comprising the steps:

determining at least one baseline-usage parameter

5   associated with the recording medium;

determining a validity period associated with the content

material based on the baseline-usage parameter~~,~~—;

determining a measure of usage associated with the

recording medium; and

10   rendering the content material in dependence upon the

validity period and the measure of usage.

28.   (Currently Amended)   The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 27,

wherein said method further ~~including~~comprises the step:

determining an authenticity of the baseline-usage

parameter,

5   and

————————wherein

the rendering of the content material is in further dependence upon

the authenticity of the baseline-usage parameter.

29.   (Currently Amended)   The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 27,

wherein said method further ~~including~~comprises the step:

decrypting the content material to facilitate said

rendering.

30. (Currently Amended)   The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 27, wherein said method further ~~including~~comprises the steps:

determining a ticket value associated with the content material~~,~~;

determining a watermark associated with the content material~~,~~; and

comparing a hashed value of the watermark to the ticket value to determine an authorization associated with the content material,

and

——————wherein

the rendering of the content material is in further dependence upon the authorization associated with the content material.